IT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of preventing an increase in the blood level of IFN- γ in a subject at risk of an elevated IFN- γ blood level due to (i) administration of a therapeutic agent or (ii) a disease condition, comprising

orally administering interferon-tau (IFN τ) to the subject at a dosage of greater than about 5 x 10⁸ Units to decrease the subject's IFN- γ blood level relative to the IFN- γ blood level in the absence of IFN τ administration.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said IFN τ is selected from ovine IFN τ and bovine IFN τ .
- 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said IFN τ has a sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said subject has an elevated IFN- γ level due to an autoimmune condition, and said orally administering continues during the period of the subject's symptoms.
- 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said autoimmune condition is multiple sclerosis.
- 6. The method of claim 4, wherein said autoimmune conditions is selected from the group consisting of Type I diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, Myasthenia Gravis, Graves' disease, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, Sjogren's syndrome, ankylosing spondylitis and inflammatory bowel disease.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said subject has an elevated IFN- γ level due to treatment with IFN- α or IFN- β , and said administering continues during the period of the subject's symptoms.

- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said orally administering IFN τ is to a subject suffering from multiple sclerosis and being treated with IFN- β .
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said orally administering IFN τ is to a subject suffering from a viral infection and being treated with IFN- α .
- 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said orally administering IFN τ is to a subject suffering from a cellular proliferative condition and being treated with antiproliferative agent or being treated with IFN- α .
- 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said subject has an elevated IFN- γ level due to the disease conditions.